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## New Orthodox synagogue opens in NE Scottsdale

LEISAH NAMM  
Managing Editor  
[E-MAIL](#)

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**FOOD**

Several families in Northeast Scottsdale have started a new synagogue.

About 12-15 families in the area near Scottsdale and Thunderbird roads decided they wanted to establish a Jewish community with a synagogue in their neighborhood, said Jeffrey Becker, president of the Scottsdale Torah Center. The Orthodox synagogue, located at 7002 E. Ludlow Drive, held its first Shabbat service on May 27 and will offer weekly Shabbat services, holiday services and other programming.

The building, a 2,500-square-foot facility in a residential neighborhood, will also serve as the eastside office of the Phoenix Community Kollel, Becker said. Aish Hatorah Scottsdale, a kollel program, will also be based at the center.

"We have created a partnership with the Phoenix Community Kollel," Becker said. The center will serve as an educational outreach facility, as well as offer worship services, he added. "Hopefully this will be a vehicle for more families to move into the neighborhood and be a part of this institution."

Rabbi Ariel Shoshan, programming director of the kollel, will serve as the synagogue's spiritual leader. The other kollel rabbis - there are 10 in all, including three who serve the Bukharian community - will teach classes at the new Scottsdale location, as well as at their facility at 6516 N. Seventh St., #104, Phoenix.

Shoshan said he is impressed by the leadership of the board, which consists of Becker, Larry Zier and Eddie Pantiliat.

"(They) identified a need to create a community" and then did it, Shoshan said. "I'm proud to be associated with them."

Although the kollel has committed to supply an educational component to the synagogue, the Scottsdale Torah Center will have its own social and spiritual programs and the kollel will continue to "be a resource for the entire community," Shoshan said.

According to the synagogue's mission statement, "the Scottsdale Torah Center is a community dedicated to excellence in Torah learning and avodas Hashem (the service of God), and committed to the ideals of Ahavas Yisrael (the mitzvah of loving fellow Jews) and reaching out to all Jews."

The idea of an Orthodox synagogue in this neighborhood originated about four years ago, but took some time to take form, Becker said. Funding to purchase the building was from "generous donors in the community," Becker said.

"We finally got people together and it's wonderful. ... God willing, it's going to continue to grow and be able to touch people's lives in a very meaningful and positive way."

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